

the players, coaches, families, and fans, it is truly a way of life.

It brings me great joy to see these athletes represent some of the best parts of our great Eighth District as State champions.

This group of hardworking young players has shown what dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment can accomplish. It is a true example of American exceptionalism.

I also honor the coaches for being outstanding role models and leaders to the Hawks this entire season. Head coach, Pat Andrews, and assistant coaches: Nate Buck, Matt Swanson, and Chad Huttel guided the team to not only the school's fourth State championship, but also a winning season concluding with 29 wins with only 2 losses. The Hawks secured the championship with an exciting 3-2 win over Warroad.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate every player, coach, and fan who lifted the Hermantown Hawks to victory. They have made our district so proud, and I wish every team member the best as they continue their hockey careers.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL DEWITT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some incredible students from Iowa's Second Congressional District.

On Saturday, March 12, the Central DeWitt Special Olympics basketball team earned a silver medal and the Sabers unified dance team earned a gold medal at the Mid-Winter Tournament in Iowa City.

For the last few years, Special Olympics Iowa has put on the Mid-Winter Tournament as part of their ongoing series of events to showcase the amazing skills and talents of our athletes.

The Mid-Winter Tournament sees competition in basketball, basketball skills, cheerleading, gymnastics, and powerlifting. Healthy Athletes screenings are also provided to athletes by healthcare professionals for dental, hearing, overall health and fitness, and more.

Organizations like Special Olympics strive to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people. Through the power of sports, these athletes discover new strengths, skills, confidence, abilities, fulfillment, and success. They also learn the values of hard work, sportsmanship, perseverance, teamwork, and, most importantly, having fun.

Special Olympics has changed the lives of so many amazing athletes, and I am proud to have them in Iowa. But I am even prouder of the awesome athletes from Central DeWitt who are already making their mark on the world. Go Sabers.

CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 979, I call up the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 979, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-36 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2116

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2022" or the "CROWN Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Throughout United States history, society has used (in conjunction with skin color) hair texture and hairstyle to classify individuals on the basis of race.

(2) Like one's skin color, one's hair has served as a basis of race and national origin discrimination.

(3) Racial and national origin discrimination can and do occur because of longstanding racial and national origin biases and stereotypes associated with hair texture and style.

(4) For example, routinely, people of African descent are deprived of educational and employment opportunities because they are adorned with natural or protective hairstyles in which hair is tightly coiled or tightly curled, or worn in locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, or Afros.

(5) Racial and national origin discrimination is reflected in school and workplace policies and practices that bar natural or protective hairstyles commonly worn by people of African descent.

(6) For example, as recently as 2018, the U.S. Armed Forces had grooming policies that barred natural or protective hairstyles that servicemembers of African descent commonly wear and that described these hairstyles as "unkempt".

(7) The U.S. Army also recognized that prohibitions against natural or protective hairstyles that African-American soldiers are commonly adorned with are racially discriminatory, harmful, and bear no relationship to African-American servicewomen's occupational qualifications and their ability to serve and protect the Nation. As of February 2021, the U.S. Army removed minimum hair length requirements and lifted restrictions on any soldier wearing braids, twists, locs, and cornrows in order to promote inclusivity and accommodate the hair needs of soldiers.

(8) As a type of racial or national origin discrimination, discrimination on the basis of natural or protective hairstyles that people of African descent are commonly adorned with violates existing Federal law, including provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), section 1977 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981), and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). However, some Federal courts have mis-

interpreted Federal civil rights law by narrowly interpreting the meaning of race or national origin, and thereby permitting, for example, employers to discriminate against people of African descent who wear natural or protective hairstyles even though the employment policies involved are not related to workers' ability to perform their jobs.

(9) Applying this narrow interpretation of race or national origin has resulted in a lack of Federal civil rights protection for individuals who are discriminated against on the basis of characteristics that are commonly associated with race and national origin.

(10) In 2019 and 2020, State legislatures and municipal bodies throughout the U.S. have introduced and passed legislation that rejects certain Federal courts' restrictive interpretation of race and national origin, and expressly classifies race and national origin discrimination as inclusive of discrimination on the basis of natural or protective hairstyles commonly associated with race and national origin.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Federal Government should acknowledge that individuals who have hair texture or wear a hairstyle that is historically and contemporarily associated with African Americans or persons of African descent systematically suffer harmful discrimination in schools, workplaces, and other contexts based upon longstanding race and national origin stereotypes and biases;

(2) a clear and comprehensive law should address the systematic deprivation of educational, employment, and other opportunities on the basis of hair texture and hairstyle that are commonly associated with race or national origin;

(3) clear, consistent, and enforceable legal standards must be provided to redress the widespread incidences of race and national origin discrimination based upon hair texture and hairstyle in schools, workplaces, housing, federally funded institutions, and other contexts;

(4) it is necessary to prevent educational, employment, and other decisions, practices, and policies generated by or reflecting negative biases and stereotypes related to race or national origin;

(5) the Federal Government must play a key role in enforcing Federal civil rights laws in a way that secures equal educational, employment, and other opportunities for all individuals regardless of their race or national origin;

(6) the Federal Government must play a central role in enforcing the standards established under this Act on behalf of individuals who suffer race or national origin discrimination based upon hair texture and hairstyle;

(7) it is necessary to prohibit and provide remedies for the harms suffered as a result of race or national origin discrimination on the basis of hair texture and hairstyle; and

(8) it is necessary to mandate that school, workplace, and other applicable standards be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner and to explicitly prohibit the adoption or implementation of grooming requirements that disproportionately impact people of African descent.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to institute definitions of race and national origin for Federal civil rights laws that effectuate the comprehensive scope of protection Congress intended to be afforded by such laws and Congress' objective to eliminate race and national origin discrimination in the United States.

SEC. 3. FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No individual in the United States shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, based on the individual's hair texture or hairstyle, if that hair texture or that hairstyle is commonly associated with a particular race or national origin (including a hairstyle in which hair is tightly